

Lesson 1 Manners

礼貌

(lǐ mào)



Vocabulary

是

(yes)

shì

shur



不是

(no)

shì

shur/boo shur



请 (please)

qǐng

ching



谢谢 (thanks)

xiè xiè

she-eh she-eh



多谢 (thank you very much)
duō xiè
Doo-wuh she-eh



不客气 (you're welcome)

bú kè qì

Boo cou chi (cou as pronounced in **could**)





Pronunciation note

The vowel sounds in Chinese differ widely from the vowel sounds in English. Try to listen to spoken Chinese to hear the difference. It is essential to learn the tones of the vowels to speak even basic Mandarin.



Cultural note

- There are hundreds of dialects in China, which can sound like completely different languages. China is one of the biggest countries in the world , with the largest population;
- However ,people from different cities need to speak Mandarin instead of their own ‘mother tongue’ in order to communicate with each other successfully .



Lesson 2

Greetings

Vocabulary

- 你好

- nǐ hǎo (hello)

- nea how

- 再见

- zài jiàn (goodbye)

- ds-ai gee-an(ds as pronounced in woods)



早上好

zǎo shàng hǎo (Good morning)

ds-ao shong how(ds as pronounced in woods)



晚上好

wǎn shàng hǎo (Good evening)

won shong how





Pronunciation Notes

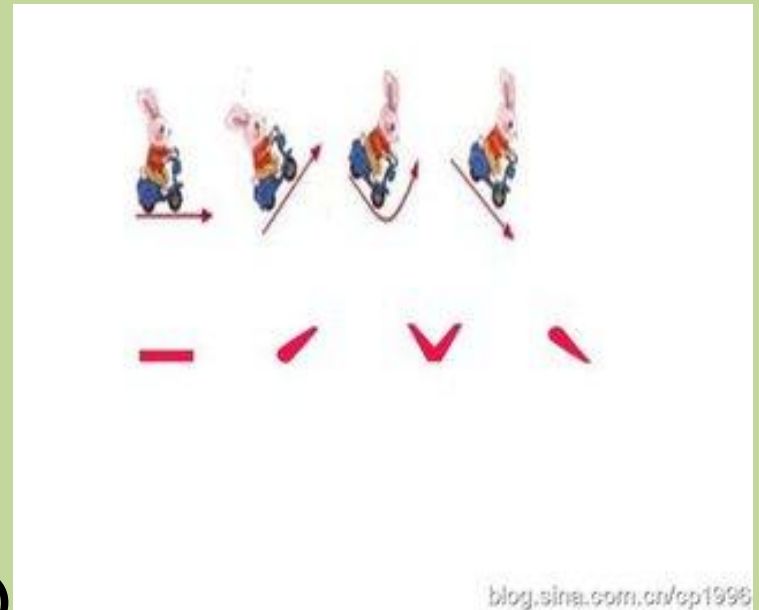
- **Mandarin uses four tones to clarify the meanings of words. Since many characters have the same sound ,tones are used to differentiate words from each other.**

- **The four tones in Mandarin are:**
- **high level-first tone**
- **rising -second tone**
- **falling rising-third tone**
- **falling -fourth tone**



Because of this tonal difference, words with the same vowels can have completely different meanings.

- **Tone 1:mā(mother)**
- **Tone 2:má(to bother)**
- **Tone 3:mǎ (horse)**
- **Tone 4:mà (to scold)**



- **Most of the time, each Chinese word (or syllable) takes the same amount of time in pronunciation, just like each written Chinese word takes the same space. You may recognize that Chinese words don't “flow” into each other as they would in a western language such as French.**



Cultural Notes

- Only 30 years ago in Chinese cities (20 years ago in Chinese suburban areas) people would greet each other with 'chī lé mā?' (Did you eat?) instead of 'hello' due to the fact that not everyone had enough food at that time.

